

Rockwell exhibit returns to Museum of Art

By LAURIE WILLIAMS SOWBY
Herald Correspondent

SPRINGVILLE — Norman Rockwell's back, and he's telling stories at the Springville Museum of Art.

Rockwell has been dead for 19 years, but 26 works by perhaps America's most beloved artist are on exhibit through Nov. 30.

A narrative illustrator, Rockwell for nearly a half century told stories of everyday American life through his paint-

ings. Many regularly appeared on the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post* and other magazines.

"I believe Norman Rockwell to be the greatest narrative, storytelling artist ever. I don't even qualify it. I just say he's the best," said museum director Vern Swanson.

This is the third time a Rockwell exhibit has graced the Springville Museum of Art, but the first time half of these paintings have been shown publicly in Utah.

The original works, loaned by Utah collectors, span the years and the spectrum of the American experience during the secure '30s, '40s and '50s. All are done in Rockwell's realistic, detailed style and often demonstrate his humorous observations.

Swanson points out "Two Plumbers and Dog," a comical piece portraying two plumbers with dirt-laden boots on the white carpet of a woman's pink boudoir. Only the dog is privy to their mischief as they spray perfume at each other.

Also included are some of the popular Boy Scout themes; 1947's soda fountain scene, "After the Prom;" a charcoal and graphite sketch of a doctor and little boy, "The Checkup;" and some disheartened cheerleaders after a losing game.

Rockwell made an artistic comment on the turmoil of the '60s in "The Problem We All Live With."

The premiere painting in the exhibit, "Lift Up Thine Eyes," has special significance to this area.

The scene of a scripture being placed on top of a cathedral's facade while people pass by with downcast eyes is called "Lift Up Thine Eyes."

The late Rex E. Lee used the title as the theme for his talk and showed a slide of the painting as he bid farewell to a Marriott Center crowd in his announcement that he would be stepping down as BYU president.

The museum is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and until 9 p.m. Wednesdays, plus Sundays, 3-6 p.m. This month only, the Rockwell exhibit can also be seen on Monday nights from 6 to 9. Admission for the special exhibit is \$3 for adults (\$2 for senior citizens), \$1.50 for children and \$10 for a family. School group admission is \$1 per person.

Admission to this special exhibit will go toward the new wing, now under construction on the southeast side of the venerable museum.

For more information on the exhibit or to schedule groups, call 489-7082.

THE FEATURED WORKS OF



Rockwell's "Lift Up Thine Eyes"

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